

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9455B

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

CINCPAC

OS O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 0341CJ

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, BG

SUBJ: BDG BEGINS RESTRUCTURING ADMINISTRATION

1. ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, THE BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT (BDG) BEGAN WHAT IS DESCRIBED AS THE "FIRST PHASE" IN A RESTRUCTURING OF THE BUREAUCRACY. ACCORDING TO ITS ANNOUNCEMENT, THE BDG WILL REDUCE THE NUMBER OF MINISTRIES FROM 29 TO 24 AND THE NUMBER OF DIVISIONS UNDER MINISTRIES FROM 47 TO 39. MOREOVER, IT HAS ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT OF A NUMBER OF SECRETARIES AND ADDITIONAL SECRETARIES (THE RANK JUST BELOW FULL SECRETARY) IN WHAT WE ARE TOLD IS THE FIRST STEP IN A VERY EXTENSIVE RESHUFFLE.

2. COMMENT: THE REORGANIZATION OF THE ADMINISTRATION IS SORELY REQUIRED. IN THE PERIOD BETWEEN DECEMBER, 1971 AND AUGUST, 1975, THE BUREAUCRACY WAS MANIPULATED AND MISUSED FOR POLITICAL ENDS BY SHEKH MUJIB, WITH THE RESULT THAT ITS EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY WERE SUB-
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STANTIALLY REDUCED. THERE HAD BEEN HOPES THAT THE RESTRUCTURING MIGHT BEGIN DURING THE 80-DAY PRESIDENCY OF MOSHTAQUE AHMED BUT THE FORMER PRESIDENT'S PREOCCUPATION

WITH POLITICAL SURVIVAL AND BALANCING THE COMPETING INTERESTS OF THE MILITARY AND CIVILIAN WINGS OF GOVERNMENT MEANT THAT LITTLE, IF ANYTHING, WAS ACCOMPLISHED.

3. WITH MANY CHANGES STILL AHEAD, WE CANNOT JUDGE HOW SUCCESSFUL THE RESTURCTURING OF THE ADMINISTRATION WILL PROVE TO BE. WE ARE TOLD THAT SOME OF THE NEW APPOINTMENTS ARE ONLY TEMPORAGD, AND THUS EFFORTS ON THE PART OF THOSE REASSIGNED OVER THE WEEKEND TO MOVE TO BRING ORDER AND DIRECTION TO THEIR MINISTRIES ARE MORE LIKELY THAN NOT TO REMAIN TENTATIVE UNTIL SUCH TIME AS ALL THE CHANGES ARE COMPLETE. WE ARE TOLD, HOWEVER, THAT THE INTENTION OF THE MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATION IS TO END THE ADMINISTRATIVE IMPEDIMENTS TO POLICY FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION, AND NO ONE DOUBTS THE NECESSITY FOR THIS OR ITS WISDOM.

4. IT SHOULD BE NOTED T DT AMONG THE VERY SMALL NUMBER OF PERSONS REMOVED FROM GOVERNMENT WAS THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING MINISTRY, DR. T. HUSAIN. DURING HIS INCUMBENCY, THE FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM WAS MADE MORIBUND. HIS SUCCESSOR, D. M. A. SATTAR, FORMERLY ECONOMIC SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT, IS EXPECTED TO DO FAR BETTER, PARTICULARLY SINCE HIS IS WELL AWARE OF DONOR SENTIMENT REGARDING THE NEED FOR EFFECTIVE POPULATION CONTROL.
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